I wish to register my distress, as a concerned citizen, about Sinclair Broadcasting's abuse of their quasi-monopoly status.

Sinclair demonstrated this when it forced its stations not to air the list of the US soldiers who have died in Iraq.

Now Sinclair is doing it again: forcing their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I will be watching

closely to see how the FCC responds to Sinclair's ongoing heavyhanded attempts at imposing a partisan political view over the nation's airwaves.

Thank you for continuing to defend the public interest in matters of station ownership.